



# The Courier

## First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

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fumccp@sbcglobal.net website: www.umccp.org

Join us at church Sundays at 10:00 am

January 2012

## Foreman's Forum

Christmas has come and gone and the New Year has arrived, bringing a fresh beginning to our service and ministry together as we follow Christ. I want to thank all of you for your generous support of our church's ministry. Some of you have found new ways to use your spiritual gifts to build up the church and make a difference in our community. Your financial generosity has made a difference in undergirding ministry through and beyond the local church touching the lives of others. My prayer for the year is that we will continue to grow in our discipleship.

Perhaps you don't make resolutions at the beginning of the year, nor do I, but here are some ways in which you might make a fresh beginning in this New Year.

Attend worship regularly – Worship is like spiritual food that God offers us every week. If you don't eat, you won't grow spiritually. You become weak and spiritually sick, if you don't eat. Please make it a priority by arranging your schedule to be with God and His people every week.

Get involved with a small group – We will continue having small group studies. This will be a time for nurture, growth and service. Participants report that discussions in the small groups have been supportive and helpful in discipleship growth.

Be hospitable and charitable – Bring people who are not yet involved to church and invite people into your home. Look for ways to use your gifts in different ministries of First Church. Is there is a ministry missing from First Church that should be started? Start it.

May the Lord bless us and keep us in the year ahead.

Faithfully Yours,

*Pastor Willie*



### **Pastor**

Dr. Willie Foreman

### **Preschool Director**

Wendy Finley

### **Music Director**

Dr. Pamela Blackstone

### **Interim Organist/Pianist**

Paul Cady

### **Christian Education Director**

Margaret Cates

### **Administrative Assistant**

Rebecca Roe

### **Courier Layout**

Sharon Mountford

### **Resident Bishop**

Dr. Mary Ann Swenson

### **District Superintendent**

Rev. Cathleen Coots



### Birthdays

- 1 Emily Lopez
- 3 Robert Hromadka
- 9 Marjorie Forrester
- 13 Joan Kelley
- 14 Mary McKibben
- 15 Sylvia Buttemeier
- 21 Lora O'Connor
- 25 Mary Cowgill  
Mervin Hewitt
- 26 Brian Finley  
John Willauer
- 27 Stacey Alourdias
- 30 JoAnne McColloch
- 31 Mary Mackay

### Anniversary

- 26 Dean & Carolyn  
Lottman



### ALTAR FLOWERS

The new altar flower calendar is available for you to sign up to sponsor flowers for your special dates during the year. The price for altar flowers is \$35.00. Flower sponsors are invited to take the arrangement home to enjoy during the week.

## January Calendar

### Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Fellowship Hall, 9:30 am  
Hindi Urdu UMC, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Tuesday Boy Scouts, Scout Room, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday Tai Chi Class, Gym, 10:00 am (skip Jan. 4)  
Men's Stag AA meeting, Parlor, 7:30 pm
- Thursday Senior Exercise Class, Gym, 8:30 am (starting Jan. 9)  
Choir practice, Choir Room, 7:30 pm
- Saturday Peace Evangelical Church events  
Tai Chi, Gym, 8:30 am  
English Fellowship, Room 10, 9:30 am  
Prayer Meeting, Lounge, 9:30 am

### Other Activities

- Sunday 1 New Year's Day, worship at 10:00 am
- Tuesday 3 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Saturday 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast,  
Denny's, 8:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of  
Roscoe Blvd.*
- Sunday 8 100th Anniversary presentation,  
30's and 40's  
Charge Conference, after worship service
- Tuesday 10 Bridge, Lounge, 10:00 am  
Administrative Committee meeting, Library, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 11 Outreach Ministry, Library, 7:00 pm
- Sunday 15 Courier deadline  
Human Relations Sunday
- Monday 16 Martin Luther King Day, church office closed
- Tuesday 17 Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Sunday 22 UMW Sunday
- Tuesday 24 Bridge, Lounge, 10:00 am  
Education Ministry, Library, 7:00 pm
- Sunday 29 Anniversary Café, *see page 4*  
*Soup and salad lunch after worship*



### First week of February

- Tuesday 7 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*



Church: [www.umccp.org](http://www.umccp.org)  
Preschool: [www.fump.org](http://www.fump.org)



## Silver Tea

This UMW Annual Silver Tea began the celebration of Advent Season for our members and guests. A great celebration it was. We were honored to have Mary Mackay and her team making this all come together.



*Seen enjoying the Silver Tea are Pat Rowe, Doris Hood, Betty Barlow, Anna Bennett and Nancy Johnson*

Three young adults: Shayna Summer, Jack Medina & Pauline Salonga did a great job passing plates of goodies and making sure our coffee & tea cups were well filled. How blessed we were to have the Men in Black: Roger Johnson, Lou Mountford & Robert Lamb entertain with their music.

As a reminder of our Centennial Anniversary next year, UMW cook books dating "way back" were displayed and several of the recipes were prepared and served at the Tea. Our UMW Unit donated \$500.00 to the Pastor's Good Samaritan Fund. Of that amount \$333.00 was donated at the Tea.



**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 2, 2012**  
**11:00 am, Lounge**

We will be starting our new year with a presentation by Grace Leighton of her antique dolls. You will remember Grace as the owner of tortoises and unusual birds.

Because we will be enjoying ham again in the form of pea soup and little ham sandwiches, we will need only salads and desserts from you ladies.

Remember, we accept donations for the West Valley Food Pantry. See you soon.

*Be sure to come.*

## Circle Meetings



### Bookends

Thursday, January 12  
 9:30 am -- Library



### Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, January 18  
 7:00 pm  
 Home of Helen Robertson



### Sarah Circle

Thursday, January 12  
 9:30 am  
 Breakfast at Coco's

### Mission Team

Thursday, January 10,  
 10:00 am -- Room 10

**Laura Longman**  
**Memorial Scholarship**  
*Applications available in the church office.*

If you have a child, grandchild or friend who will be a junior or senior in undergraduate study with a 2.75 or better GPA, please request an application from the church office and encourage them to apply. Applications must be returned to the church office by Friday, February 10, 2012. Scholarships will be awarded on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012.

## **JANUARY** *Preschool News*



We'll come back from our Christmas break on Monday, January 9, ready and refreshed for a new year. It's a good time for parents to start their little ones who weren't ready in September but now can start Preschool.

We will observe a school holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 16th.

The picture above is one of our students, Chasia, and was taken at our Thanksgiving feast. Her class says this daily prayer together: "O Lord, bless our school. For playing together, and working together, we may learn to serve you, and to serve one another. God bless our families, our friends, and our school. Amen."

*Wendy & Ginger*

### **Kitchen Help**

We welcome Marjorie Forrester as one of our "kitchen helpers" – she is most willing to help whenever she can. Thank you, Marjorie! Many hands do make the work more fun and easier.

P.S. If any men are around at the end of the Fellowship Hour, we would be happy to let you take the trash to the dumpster for us.

*Please remember the  
February Courier  
deadline is January 15.*

### **Sweetheart Sunday at the Anniversary Café**

On Sunday, January 29th the 100th Anniversary Café will be open for your enjoyment. Some of your favorite soups will again be served as well as some new featured items. If you would like to be one of the chefs for the cafe, let us know your speciality to include on the menu.

The Café will open following the morning worship service. Reservations are \$6.00; which includes soup, salad, roll, dessert and beverage. This is a fund raising event for the 100th Anniversary. Why not invite someone to join you for worship and a special lunch?

*Café Managers*

*Glynene Roe, Mary Mackay and Sharon Mountford*



### **Alliance For The Care Of Abused Children (ACAC)**

Many thanks to everyone involved in making the 2011 Angel Tree a success.

- \* Judith Austin, who for the third year provided the beautiful angels donated by one of her contacts
- \* All those who helped prepare the angels for the Angel Tree by putting the names on the angels
- \* People who helped on Sunday mornings with sign-ups and carrying gifts to the Brides Room
- \* Lora O'Connor, Steve Robertson, the Grengs, & Nancy Summer who helped prepare the gifts for pickup
- \* Everyone who took an angel and bought a present and those who brought extra gifts.

It was greatly appreciated. Again, thank you all for participating in this most worthwhile project.

*Shirley Thomson*

## Missionary News

Dr. Krista Givens, pastor and missionary of the Hamburg (Germany) International Church, has announced that delegates from the Northern Germany Central Methodist Conference will be among those attending the forthcoming General Conference of the United Methodist Church, April 24 – May 4, 2012 in Tampa, Florida. This meeting will bring 988 persons from around the world to set policy and direction for the church. They will revise The Book of Discipline that sets policies regarding church membership, ordination, administration, property and judicial procedures. The Book of Resolutions, a volume that declares the church's stance on a variety of social issues, will also be revised.

Please give serious consideration to making a donation to our church's Missionary Support Fund. You might think of your monetary gift as an extension of your Christmas giving, and/or as a new beginning for the year 2012. The Missionary Fund is used to promote the global ministries of the United Methodist Church. All checks should be made out to the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park with a note for Missionary Support on the memo line. All cash donations should include your name and address and a written notation that it is for Missionary Support. Thank you.

Missionary Givens reported that she had been immersed in an experience of immigration life that was unusual for her. In the past, renewing her American visa had not been a problem and the procedure had progressed smoothly and relatively quickly. She found the 2011 renewal process to be very different in time and nature. She was surprised by the delays she experienced and was struck by the sheer numbers of people seeking immigration into Germany. The people waiting with her in line were in several different types of family groupings and were from many different countries, including Turkey, Ghana and Japan.

## In Memory of Miriam Mason

*Miriam Mason, one of our former members endowed a scholarship at the Claremont School of Theology. Our church is shown as the entity to receive information about the annual recipient of the award.*

Dear George Grengs,

Your support of scholarships at Claremont School of Theology is truly appreciated. Our students rely on the generosity of our donors to achieve their dreams. So I'm pleased to share with you the 2011-2012 recipient of the Miriam Mason Endowed Scholarship.

*Vera Bagneris, PhD*

This is just preliminary information. You'll be receiving a letter from your student with more information. In the Spring, you'll have an opportunity to meet your student at the Annual Scholarship Donor Appreciation Luncheon. Please join us on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at the Claremont Doubletree Hotel from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Invitations will be sent the first week of January.

I'm excited about our students and the work they plan to pursue after graduation. Their ministries, in all forms, will definitely make a difference in our world. You help make this possible with your financial support.

Thank you.

*Wendy Lee, Acting Director of Advancement*



*Carolers at the Dimmicks' home: Mary Mackay, Robert and Flo Lamb, Lou, Sharon and Brian Mountford and Rae Wilken*

## The First 100 Years ... The Forties

By 1940 the economy was rebounding from the depression; businesses were growing and tract homes were replacing the valley farm lands. Catalpa trees lined Topanga Canyon Blvd. from Ventura Blvd. to Roscoe Blvd. and a "Catalpa Festival" was being held each Spring to bring visitors to Canoga Park. It was a happier time – at least briefly.

Large ranches still existed. George E. Platt, a veteran dairyman, owned the 1,100 acre former El Escorpion Ranch and introduced the dairy industry to the area. Otto F. Brant's ranch, with walnuts, cattle and chickens covered the area bordered by Vanowen St., Ventura Blvd., DeSoto Ave. and Topanga Canyon Blvd. The ranch, run by his three sons, was eventually purchased by motion picture producer, Harry Warner. It is the site of Warner Center today.

The church, under Rev. Harold Broughton, continued to raise money to reduce the church debt. Parishioners were asked to put "A Penny A Meal" toward this effort, which netted \$50 a month. Many young people were put to work in the church as Rev. Broughton stressed the importance of ministry to the youth.

Rev. William Koehler became pastor in 1941. The Official Board voted to begin another debt-clearing campaign and on Sept. 17, 1943 the church mortgage was indeed burned! The \$90 remaining in the fund was later used to remodel the sanctuary.

The Canoga Park Women's Club, organized in 1914, was very active in our community. They used our church for their meetings and raised funds for the kitchen in the rebuilt church. Early leaders of the Women's Club were also active in our Women's Society of Christian Service: Clara Rooksby, Emma Hoefer, Viola Crowley, Vera Ferrin (mother-in-law of Pat Ferrin) and Polly Cates Dieckman (mother of Darold Cates).

This group was instrumental in establishing a Well Baby Clinic, Guadalupe Youth Center, Lanark Park and the current Historical Society. Clara Rooksby

chaired a committee to establish the first library in a schoolroom with 150 books. Later a formal library was built on Owensmouth Ave. The Pacific Lodge Boys Home (for youth 12-14) was also sponsored by the Women's Club. Ralph Chaffee of our church was principal.

Everything changed following the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. A watch tower and listening post to detect enemy planes was established on the Platt Ranch. Emma Hoefer, Alta Speer and Marion Bechtelheimer of our church, were some who stood watch nightly from 10 pm until 2 am.

Men soon registered for military service. The aviation industry quickly converted to defense work. Bus lines were extended to get wartime defense production workers to work. Rationing of food and gas were part of everyone's life. Workers to harvest the crops and to work in the fields were scarce. Japanese families were sent to internment camps. It was an uneasy and difficult time.

As the war ended in 1945, and military personnel returned home, housing became a major issue. Spare rooms were needed and families were encouraged to provide housing. Major changes occurred as a housing boom began. Dairy, poultry and agricultural businesses began to decline. Urbanization of our town had begun.

The first major hospital for the valley was built (Valley Presbyterian); major markets (Safeway, Ralph's) and department stores opened. The Veterans' Administration Hospital was built and schools were added. Construction for Pierce Agricultural School began; quonset buildings were being used when the school opened in 1947. Jack Barlow taught at this school from 1949 until 1983.

Rev. Robert Cordell was appointed pastor in 1947 and served our congregation until 1950. His interest was in missionary and church service. A School of Missions and a Men's Club were established by him. Ralph Chaffee served as Chaplain for the Men's Club



*Pierce College in 1947*

New young families moved to Canoga Park and the church membership doubled. A new Hammond Organ was purchased and dedicated in 1946. The Official Board voted to purchase the lot north of the church on Jordan and presented it to the young people for a recreation center. A roller skating rink and stage were built on this lot. Betty Allen's son, John, helped provide music for the skating parties.

Brighter days were coming...



*Caroling to the Deoniks: Wilkens and Deoniks*



## From the Mailbox

As I count my blessings I think of you. As I sit in the back of the church on Sunday morns and ponder all the goodness that has been shown to Jim and me by Pastor Willie and the congregants of our church, the tears want to overflow. Always a special place to us, this church is now more so because of that goodness.

There are no words to adequately express to each of you the depth of my appreciation for the concern, the comfort, and the help you have given us these past few years. May you be forever blessed just as you have so wonderfully blessed us.

*With love to all, Marjorie Forrester*

Dear Pastor Foreman,

It was our pleasure, as members of the Board of Assistance League of San Fernando Valley, to have met you. How gracious of you to introduce yourself and to welcome us on the afternoon that we had our meeting in your church library prior to our lease having been signed.

*The Assistance League*



*Grace Leighton, Azeb Tesfay and daughter Temnit, Nancy Summer, Leisel Salonga (in white) and her family, Anne Malwah (looking down), Lillian Johnson, Robin Abernathy and son Isaiah, Ethel Johnson and Lori Sharma*

## Meet Our New Members

Each new member is sponsored by a shepherd and each shepherd wrote a little about their charge to introduce them to you.

*From the Dimmicks, shepherd to Lori Sharma.*

Lori is VP Director of Operations and Clinical Nurse Consultant for The Chase Group, overseeing five nursing facilities in Simi, San Fernando Valley and Riverside County. She is a hard-working advocate for the elderly and interested in securing Access Transportation for the elderly in our church. Her daughter, Stephanie is a graduate student attending Case Western Reserve in Cleveland and following in her Mom's footsteps pursuing a career in the medical field as a nurse practitioner. The first Sunday Lori attended our church she came into the kitchen and asked if she could help. She has been one of our "Kitchen Ladies," providing refreshments, serving and cleaning up for the Fellowship Time ever since! She also is helping with ushering when needed. Lori enjoys shopping, bowling (with Ken), reading, social networking and spending time with her daughter (and Ken).

*From Mary Mackay, shepherd to Robin Abernathy*

Robin Abernathy is a native Californian and the busy mother of grown sons Jason, Clifford and Skyler and two younger sons; Jeremy a senior in High School and Isaiah (10) who participates in the

church school. Her granddaughter, Phoenix also attends here.

Robin is a Legal Secretary/Paralegal. She had worked the past six years for a law firm in Century City until the company downsized in October. She is studying for her Master's Degree in Business Management and just found a new position. Robin loves to sing! For many years she was a back-up singer for Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder. Her singing group, SADAA, participated in the Gospel Fest at our church last summer and will sing for us during worship later this month.

*From Mary Mackay, shepherd to Azeb Tesfay*

Azeb Tesfay was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She and her six brothers were brought up in the Greek Orthodox Church.

In 1999 Azeb was invited to the U.S. to attend a business conference and expo in Florida for her Import/Export Business. War broke out in Ethiopia and people with Eritrea connections (her mother was from Eritrea) were not allowed to remain in the country. Azeb filed for amnesty and retained a lawyer to remain in the United States and was able to receive citizenship.

Her daughter, Temnit is now 7 months old and will be baptized soon. Azeb would like to pursue a career in medical transcribing. She has completed her course work and needs to fulfill her intern hours to receive her certificate.

*From Helen Robertson, shepherd to Nancy Summer.*

Nancy Summer was born in Albany, NY, to parents who worshiped in the Congregational Church. She received her BA & Masters degree in Education at Arizona State University, married Lee Summer, a lawyer, and moved to the Los Angeles area. She & Lee are now retired. She taught for thirty-three years in the LAUSD, ending at El Camino High School. They have two adult daughters, Stephanie and Shayna.

Nancy has already become involved in our church activities: UMW, Sunday morning fellowship time and is an understudy of Jasper Hood in the care of the Rose Garden. Welcome to our Church Family, Nancy.

*From Teddy Howell, shepherd to Ethel Johnson*

Thank you, Ethel, for joining our church this morning. Because of the friendship between your husband, Clarence and my husband, Harold, we have known each other for many years. Now they are both gone.

But I know you very well because after you and Clarence came to the memorial service for Harold, you came and sat with me Sunday mornings and then Clarence, you and I would go to Coco's for dinner after church. That meant a lot to me.

*From Lora & Tim O'Connor, shepherd to Grace Leighton*

Grace has four children and is a retired emergency nurse. She loves animals and has worked for the Wildlife Animal Way Station. At home she has one dog, two cats, two military macaws, two condors and two tortoises. Grace also enjoys collecting antique dolls. She will be sharing her collection

with Leisure Club in January.

Grace sees her future volunteering at the West Valley Food Pantry, working with our Sunday School children and helping during our Sunday morning fellowship time.

*From Margaret Cates, shepherd to Liezel Salonga.*

Liezel is a life-long Methodist who came here from the Philippines in 1996. She is transferring from the Van Nuys UMC. She and her husband Alvin wanted a larger church with a Sunday school for their children, Samantha who will be 4 this month, Arvin who is 9, and Pauline who is 19 and attending Pierce College. Samantha and Arvin are a regular part of our Sunday school classes and Pauline enjoys helping with the children from time to time.

Liezel has been working as a Licensed Vocational Nurse since 2001 and has been studying the last year and a half for her Board Exam to become a Registered Nurse. She has been so busy working and studying that she hasn't had time for any hobbies, but is looking forward to reading for pleasure.

*From Doris Hood, shepherd to Lillian Johnson and Anne Malwah*

Lillian Johnson and her mother, Anne Malwah live in Oxnard. They attended our church after meeting Willie at West Hills Hospital while Anne was there for surgery. Willie extended an invitation and they liked what they saw and felt here. Lillian feels we "welcomed them with open arms and open hearts." They have both completed Journey 101 and are looking forward to the rest of the series.

## Roster Additions

Robin Abernathy	6858 Lindley Ave	Reseda	91335	818-921-2330
Ethel Johnson	23251 Community Street	West Hills	91304	818-346-8408
Lillian Johnson	3730 Ketch Ave. #216	Oxnard	93035	818-251-6347
Grace Leighton	88441 Samra Avenue	West Hills	91304	818-703-8673
Anne Malwah	3730 Ketch Ave. #216	Oxnard	93035	818-251-6347
Liezel Salonga	22140 Elkwood St.	Canoga Park	91304	818-888-1672
Lori Sharma	28947 Thousand Oaks Blvd., #240	Agoura Hills	91301	818-991-6518
Nancy Summer	23438 Canzonet Street	Woodland Hills	91367	818-340-6785
Azeb Tesfay				818-453-5350



**The Sacred Dance Group** presented a Christmas program on December 11 entitled "Caroling, Caroling." Tom Roe was the narrator, Pamela Blackstone sang solos; Midge Herder, Betty May, Bill Campbell and Lou Mountford formed a quartet to sing several numbers. Paul Cady provided the instrumental music. Sharon Mountford played handbells for one piece. The multigenerational dancers brought the Christmas Spirit to the congregation.

## Caroling

A large group of carolers enjoyed a supper at the church on December 18 and then went caroling to the homes of several members whose health has kept them away from Sunday morning services.

The group sounded very good this year and brought pleasure to those they visited as well as to themselves.

Mary Mackay was in charge of the supper and Dean Lottman organized the car pools and driving directions. Two photos taken that evening are on the inside pages of this issue.

Thanks to everyone who participated.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

22700 Sherman Way  
West Hills, CA 91307-2396



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

Non-Profit Organization  
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Canoga Park, CA  
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